



DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER • 815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

Mr. H. Boyd, Press Officer
Drew Dearnaley, Assistant Press Officer

Telephone: (212) 867-8400

80438

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AVERAGE EPISCOPAL PARISH DEPICTED

NEW YORK -- The average Episcopal Church parish has 259 communicants, 376 baptized persons, and slightly less than \$50,000 in receipts for general parish purposes, according to a survey just completed.

The vast majority of parishes are well below these average figures and a few are well above, according to the Rev. John A. Schultz, statistical officer at the Episcopal Church Center.

In communicant strength, 30.5 percent of the parishes have less than 100 communicants and 22.8 percent have less than 200.

In membership, 38.2 percent of the parishes have less than 200 and 52.5 percent have less than 500 baptized persons.

On the financial side, 29.4 percent have general receipts under \$20,000 and 12.7 percent of the parishes have less than \$30,000.

The survey, which analyzed the 1979 figures from 3,302 parishes in 40 dioceses, showed wide variations. Larger dioceses tended to have a much higher percentage of larger parishes, while some small dioceses had no parishes at all in the higher categories. Schultz said that 15 percent of the dioceses had no parishes with more than 800 communicants and on only five (12.5 percent) of the 40 dioceses had even one parish with more than 2,000 members. But nearly all dioceses had one or more parishes with general income over \$100,000.

He said that no distinctly regional patterns were evident in the survey.

The 1979 statistics report a total of 7,152 parishes in the United States and 93 dioceses.

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